

Comm. 3

8 June 1961

The Honorable
L. Quincy Mumford
Librarian of Congress
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mumford:

The Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications of the United States Intelligence Board (PROCFB) has asked me as its chairman to express to you, briefly, its conviction that implementation of Public Law 480 (83rd Congress) Title I, Section 104 (a) in the pilot areas recommended to you by your PL 480 Advisory Committee will be of very great importance to the research community of the Federal Government and to the scholarly community outside the Government.

The PROCFB representative of the Department of State is not in a position to concur in this letter though the purpose of this proposed project is deserving of support. To carry out the project would require the assignment of additional American personnel overseas and the expenditure of dollars overseas; present policy is to keep any such additional assignments and expenditures to a minimum.

The need to have in American centers of research the very broadest coverage of the publications issued by the presses of India, Pakistan and the United Arab Republic cannot be overemphasized if our scholars, teachers and others interested are to understand the cultures and languages and the political feelings of the peoples of these areas.

We who have responsibilities for collecting foreign publications for Government uses are peculiarly aware of the difficulties of publications procurement in the three areas under consideration: commercial book channels are either poorly organized or non-existent; national bibliographies are in their initial stages and are far from being current; local facilities for centralized collection and distribution of official publications are lacking; and existing U. S. personnel abroad are not in a position to undertake the extensive publications procurement required to fulfill U. S. needs. These shortcomings serve

to stress the desirability of having in the publishing areas themselves under the direction of Library of Congress experts, native personnel whose energies would be completely devoted to acquiring, listing and distributing to U. S. research centers, the products of the local presses.

The proposed Library of Congress program is particularly timely in view of the recent Department of State reduction in its publications procurement personnel stationed in India and because LC's program would be financed in the main through use of U. S. foreign currency credits thus obviating the expenditure of U. S. gold in these areas by recipient institutions.

This Committee is ready to give you any assistance in connection with the PL 480 program which you may request.

Sincerely yours,

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Chairman, Committee on Procurement
of
Foreign Publications

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